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THE SECOND OFFENSE

SECRET WARS

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THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED.

TWO LIFE RAFTS ESCAPED THE FINAL COLLISION OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610, CARRYING HEROES AND VILLAINS FROM BOTH REALITIES.

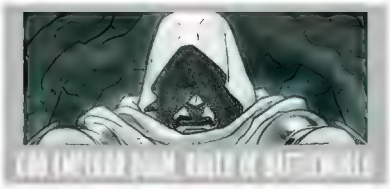
NOW THE SURVIVORS HAVE AWAKENED IN BATTLEWORLD, A PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST AND MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM.

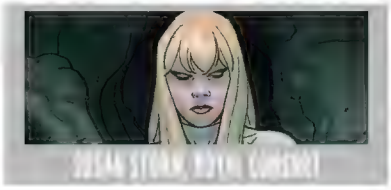
04

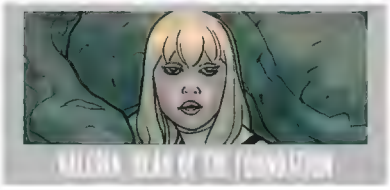
ALL THE ANGELS SING, ALL THE DEVILS DANCE

CAST

BATTLEWORLD







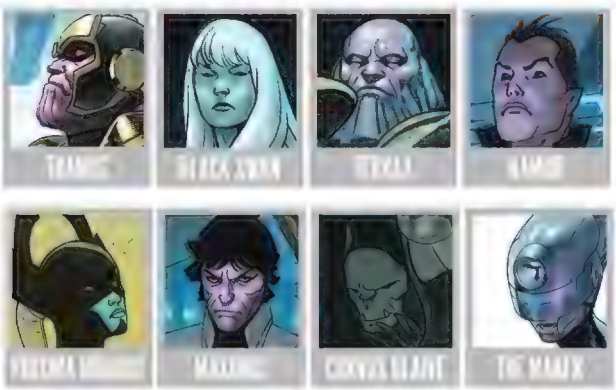
THORS

ENFORCERS OF DOOM'S JUSTICE

SURVIVORS OF THE FINAL INCURSION

THE LIFE RAFT

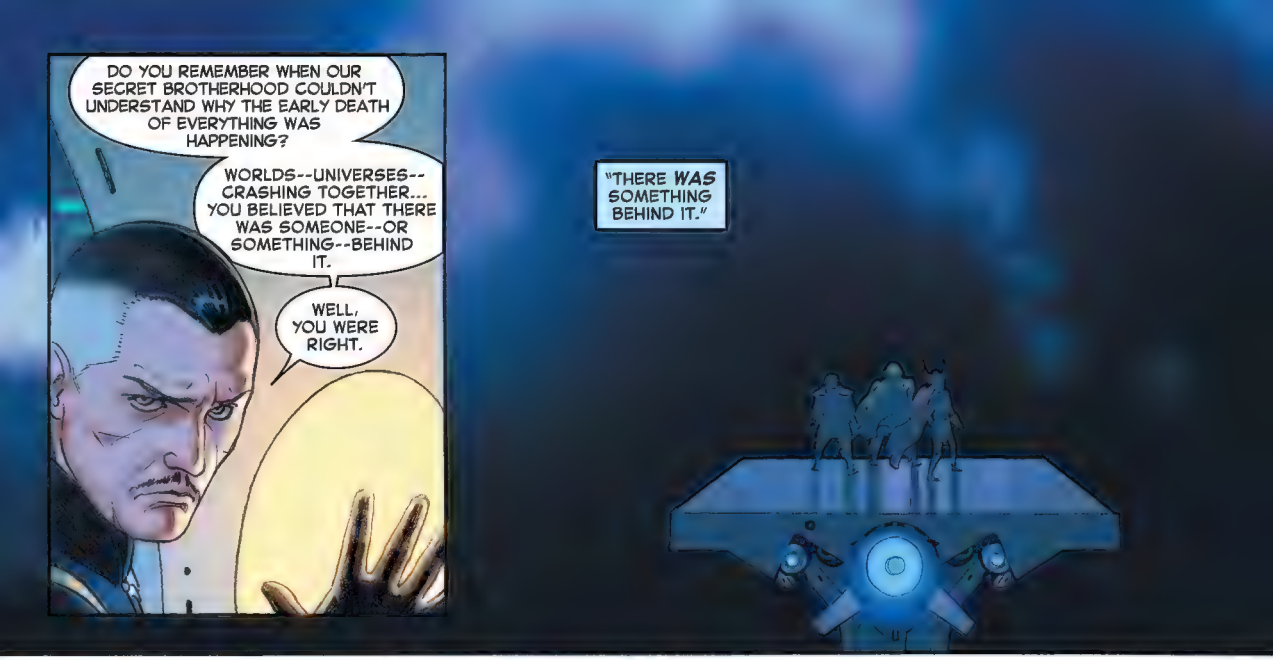
THE CABAL



"HERE'S THE THING YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT HOW THIS WORLD IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD ONE...
KAK

"THE EARTH THAT WAS...THE UNIVERSE THAT WAS...
"THE MULTIVERSE THAT WAS...
"THESE WERE ALL FORMED BY SOME HIGHER ORDER--SOME ALIEN, ETHEREAL OTHER THING THAT PERFECTLY CONSTRUCTED NOT JUST THE MATERIAL NATURE OF EVERYTHING, BUT THE RULES THAT GOVERNED IT AS WELL.
"BUT THIS WORLD? THE NEW WORLD?
"IT WAS FORMED FROM THE SHATTERED REMNANTS OF BROKEN EARTHS--I KNOW, FOR I WATCHED DOOM WILL THEM INTO SINGULARITY.
"IF THERE'S ONE THING YOU HEAR, LET IT BE THIS: THE NEW WORLD IS UNNATURAL. AND SURVIVAL IS ITS FIRST AND HIGHEST PURPOSE."

THE HIDDEN ISLE OF AGAMOTTO.
SANCTUM OF SHERIFF STRANGE.
AS SUCH, IT IS A PLACE OF TESTING-- OF CONSTANT CONFLICT-- AND IT NEEDS A GOD WITH A FIRM HAND.
THUS, BATTLEWORLD.
THUS... DOOM.
LONG MAY HE WEAR HIS CROWN.
OKAY. WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT... YOU DO KNOW YOU SOUND INSANE, RIGHT?
EXACTLY. THE ONLY THING MORE INSANE IS THAT CAPE YOU'RE WEARING AND, LET ME TELL YOU, IT'S FANTASTIC.
I HAVE TO HAVE ONE.
HOW, STEPHEN...
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?


DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN OUR SECRET BROTHERHOOD COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE EARLY DEATH OF EVERYTHING WAS HAPPENING?
WORLDS--UNIVERSES--CRASHING TOGETHER... YOU BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE--OR SOMETHING--BEHIND IT.
WELL, YOU WERE RIGHT.
"THERE *WAS* SOMETHING BEHIND IT."

UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE COULD STOP THE PERFECT ANNIHILATION PLAN THAT THE BEYONDERS HAD PUT IN MOTION...
...BUT WE COULD STOP *THEM*. SO WE DID.
HOW?
"WE KILLED THEM AND TOOK THEIR POWER FOR OURSELVES."

I LOOKED INTO THE ABYSS THAT WAS OMNIPOTENCE AND RAN FROM IT.

DOOM DID NOT.

THEN HE SAVED ALL THAT THERE WAS LEFT TO SAVE.

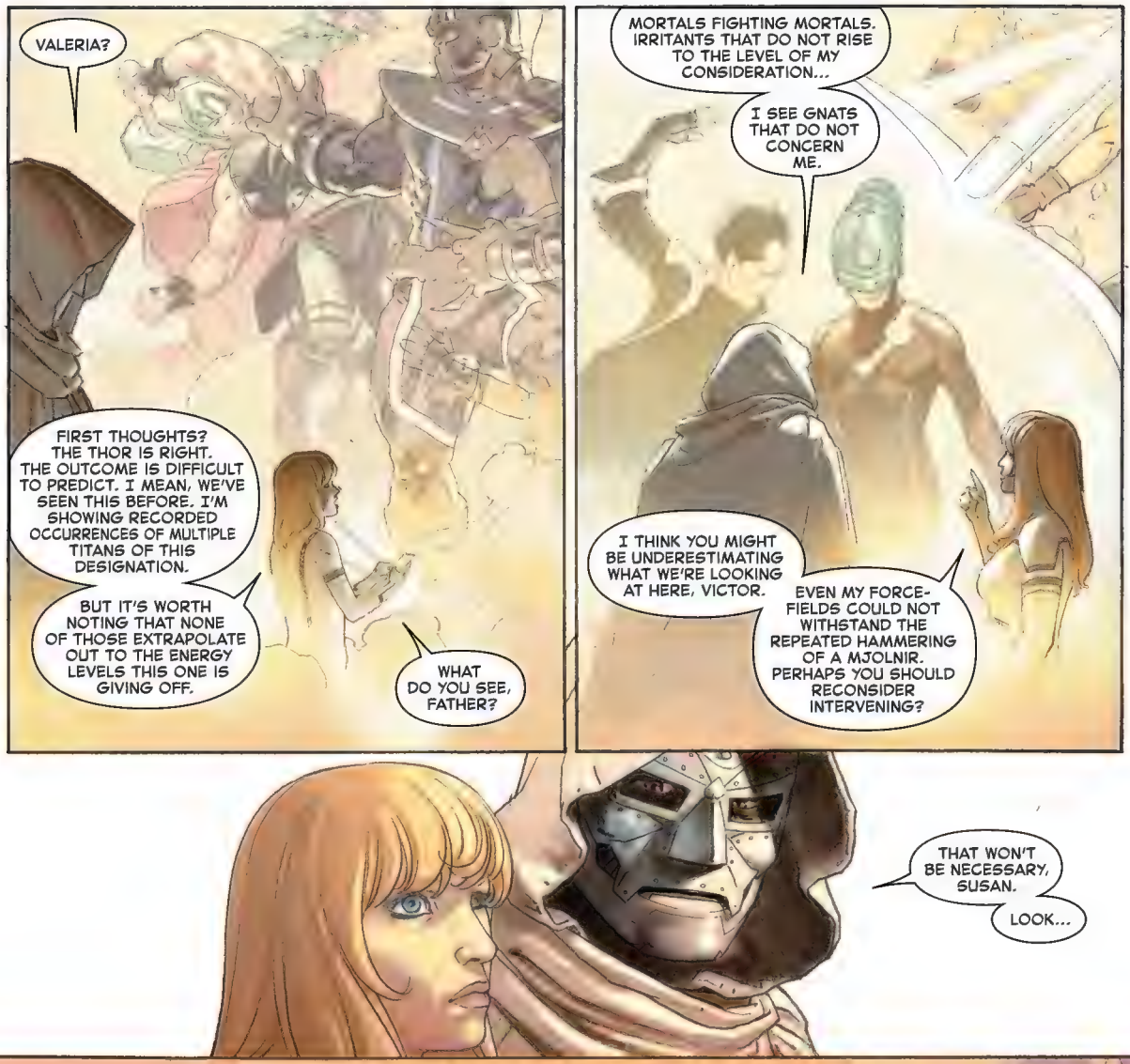
AND NOW YOU SERVE HIM.
NOW... HE IS GOD.
DOUBT HIM IF YOU WANT. DEFY HIM. CURSE HIS VERY EXISTENCE...
IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE REIGNS.
So...it's all gone? My world?
My friends and family?
NOT ALL OF IT.
SOME SMALL BITS REMAIN. SOME OF YOUR NEW YORK.
A SMALL PORTION OF WAKANDA.
IS THAT ENOUGH? IS IT ENOUGH TO REMIND US OF WHO WE WERE IN THE FACE OF WHERE WE ARE NOW?
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THIS WORLD FALLS FAR SHORT OF WHAT I HOPED IT WOULD BE. BUT IT IS REAL--IT EXISTS-- AND THAT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING.
THEN I HAVE TO ASK, SORCERER...

...BECAUSE I'VE HAD A RECENT REVOLUTION IN PERSONAL IDEOLOGY.
IF YOU HAD THE POWER...IF YOU HAD THE MEANS... IF YOU WERE THE ONE PLAYING GOD AND THE WORLD YOU WANT IS NOT THE ONE YOU HAVE...
DON'T YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO BURN IT DOWN AND RAISE UP SOMETHING BETTER?
ISN'T THAT THE REAL BURDEN THAT COMES WITH THE KIND OF POWER DOOM HAS? ISN'T IT THE BURDEN OF POWER I HAVE?
THAT'S SOMETHING I WOULD NEVE--
EXCUSE ME, SHERIFF. I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT I AM NEWLY RAISED AND DO NOT KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
OUR ATTENTION IS NEEDED ELSEWHERE.

TAKE HEART, BROTHERS AND SISTERS--I HAVE SOUNDED THE ALARM, AND SUMMONED THE HOST!
THE KINGDOM OF UTOPOLIS.
THIS WILL NOT WAIT, BROTHER! THE BATTLE GOES POORLY.
TWO OF OUR NUMBER ARE BADLY INJURED. WE CANNOT HOLD QUARANTINE, AND IF THESE ROGUES SCATTER, SOME WILL SURELY ESCAPE TO OTHER KINGDOMS BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.
LAWLESSNESS IS A DISEASE. AN INFECTIOUS WOUND WE CANNOT LET ROT THE WORLD.
I MUST TAKE THIS MATTER TO GOD.
VIOLENCE. VIOLENCE. HOW THE SIMPLE LOVE THEIR VIOLENCE. IT'S SO PREDICTABLE--MOST THINGS ARE. WHICH IS WHY I DO SO LOVE SURPRISES...
LOOK THERE, MAKER. WHAT IS THAT CURIOUS MAN UP TO? SURRENDER? PACIFISM?
Something a bit more foreboding, Maximus...
"...I believe he is *praying*."

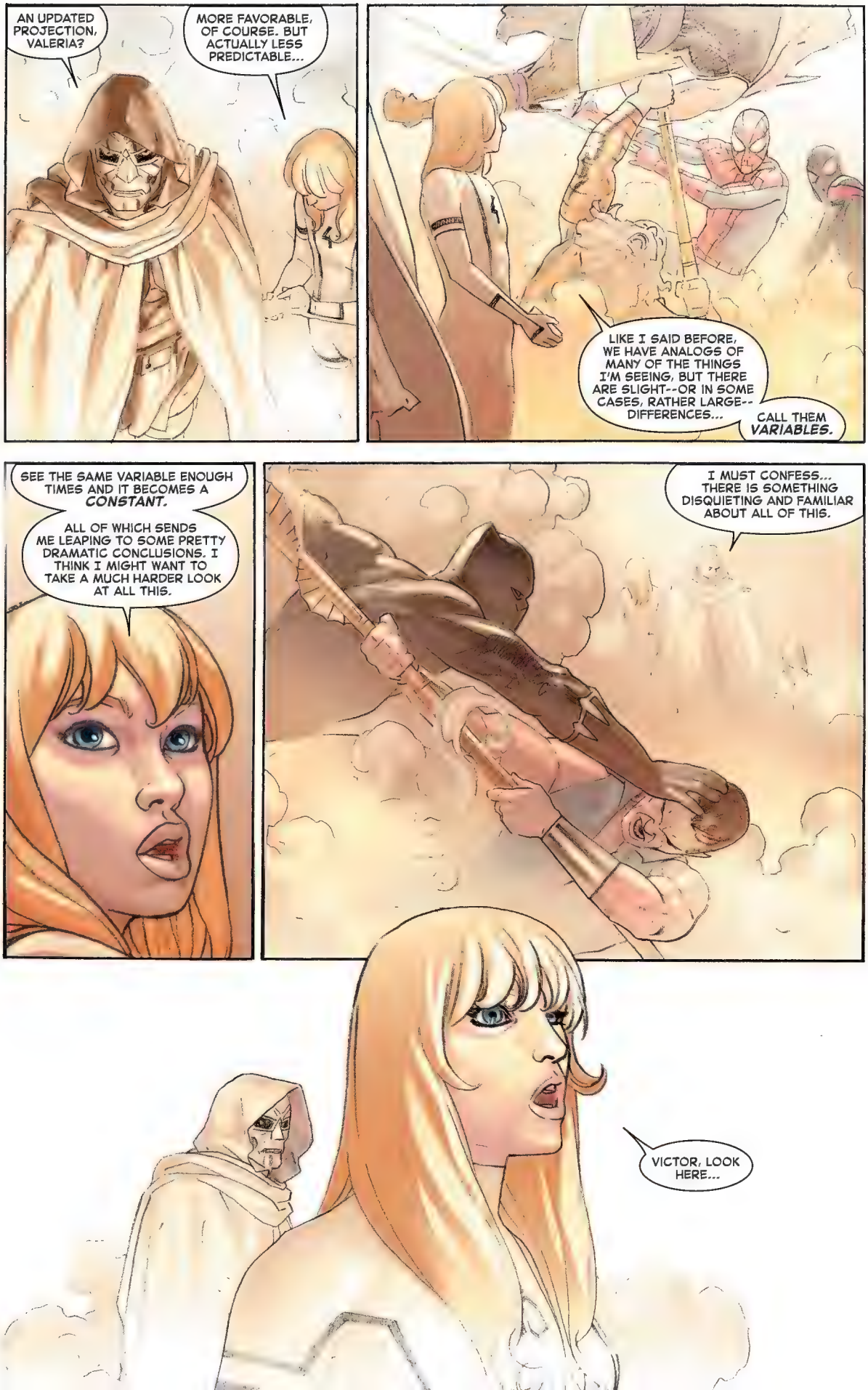
CASTLE DOOM.
ALL-FATHER. I BESEECH YOU, HEAR MY PRAYER.
A SUPPLICANT? WHAT IS THIS?
I THINK I KNOW. EARLIER TODAY I INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT MY SCIENCE TEAM HAD FOUND SOMETHING POTENTIALLY HERETICAL IN THE KINGDOM OF UTOPOLIS. HE SENT YOUR LAWMEN TO INVESTIGATE.
I'M GUESSING THINGS AREN'T GOING TOO WELL, FATHER.
VERY WELL, THOR. CONTINUE.
THERE IS CHAOS IN YOUR KINGDOMS AND WE NEED YOUR GUIDING HAND, ALL-FATHER.
I HAVE NO DOUBT WE CAN PREVAIL--REGARDLESS OF THE COST--BUT THERE IS SOMETHING UNNATURAL AT WORK HERE, AND YOU NEEDED TO KNOW.
PERHAPS.
BUT MOST MEN CANNOT TELL FOOLISHNESS FROM FORESIGHT...
SO I JUDGE THINGS WITH MY OWN EYES...

...OR THE ONES I HAVE AVAILABLE TO ME.
SHOW ME WHAT YOU SEE, THOR.
SHOW ME THIS CHAOS.


VALERIA?
FIRST THOUGHTS? THE THOR IS RIGHT. THE OUTCOME IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. I MEAN, WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE. I'M SHOWING RECORDED OCCURRENCES OF MULTIPLE TITANS OF THIS DESIGNATION.
BUT IT'S WORTH NOTING THAT NONE OF THOSE EXTRAPOLATE OUT TO THE ENERGY LEVELS THIS ONE IS GIVING OFF.
WHAT DO YOU SEE, FATHER?
MORTALS FIGHTING MORTALS. IRRITANTS THAT DO NOT RISE TO THE LEVEL OF MY CONSIDERATION...
I SEE GNATS THAT DO NOT CONCERN ME.
I THINK YOU MIGHT BE UNDERESTIMATING WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE, VICTOR.
EVEN MY FORCE-FIELDS COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE REPEATED HAMMERING OF A MJOLNIR. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER INTERVENING?

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, SUSAN.
LOOK...

STEPHEN HAS ARRIVED.


AN UPDATED PROJECTION, VALERIA?
MORE FAVORABLE, OF COURSE. BUT ACTUALLY LESS PREDICTABLE...
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, WE HAVE ANALOGS OF MANY OF THE THINGS I'M SEEING, BUT THERE ARE SLIGHT--OR IN SOME CASES, RATHER LARGE-- DIFFERENCES...
CALL THEM VARIABLES.
SEE THE SAME VARIABLE ENOUGH TIMES AND IT BECOMES A CONSTANT.
ALL OF WHICH SENDS ME LEAPING TO SOME PRETTY DRAMATIC CONCLUSIONS. I THINK I MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A MUCH HARDER LOOK AT ALL THIS.
I MUST CONFESS... THERE IS SOMETHING DISQUIETING AND FAMILIAR ABOUT ALL OF THIS.
VICTOR, LOOK HERE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT THIS ONE, MY LOVE...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM. SOMETHING... SPECIAL.
YES.
INDEED THERE IS. I SPENT YEARS LOOKING IN EVERY CORNER OF EVERY KINGDOM FOR SOME VERSION OF YOU...
AND NOW HERE YOU ARE. BROUGHT BEFORE ME.
HAS SOMETHING CAUGHT YOUR EYE, MY LOVE?
SUSAN, SUMMON THE SURGEONS. TELL THEM TO PREPARE FOR WOUNDED.
YES, MY QUEEN. IT STIRS ME TO ACTION.
BUT FEAR NOT...
I WILL RETURN SHORTLY.
WHOUUMMFFF

RICHARDS.
Is he talking to me? I don't really care for his tone.
NO.
HE IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT TALKING TO YOU.
SO, IT'S TRUE. IT REALLY IS YOU, ISN'T IT, VICTOR?
IT'S AMAZING. AN ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT OF REALITY. A WORLD WHERE THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING.
LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE MADE.

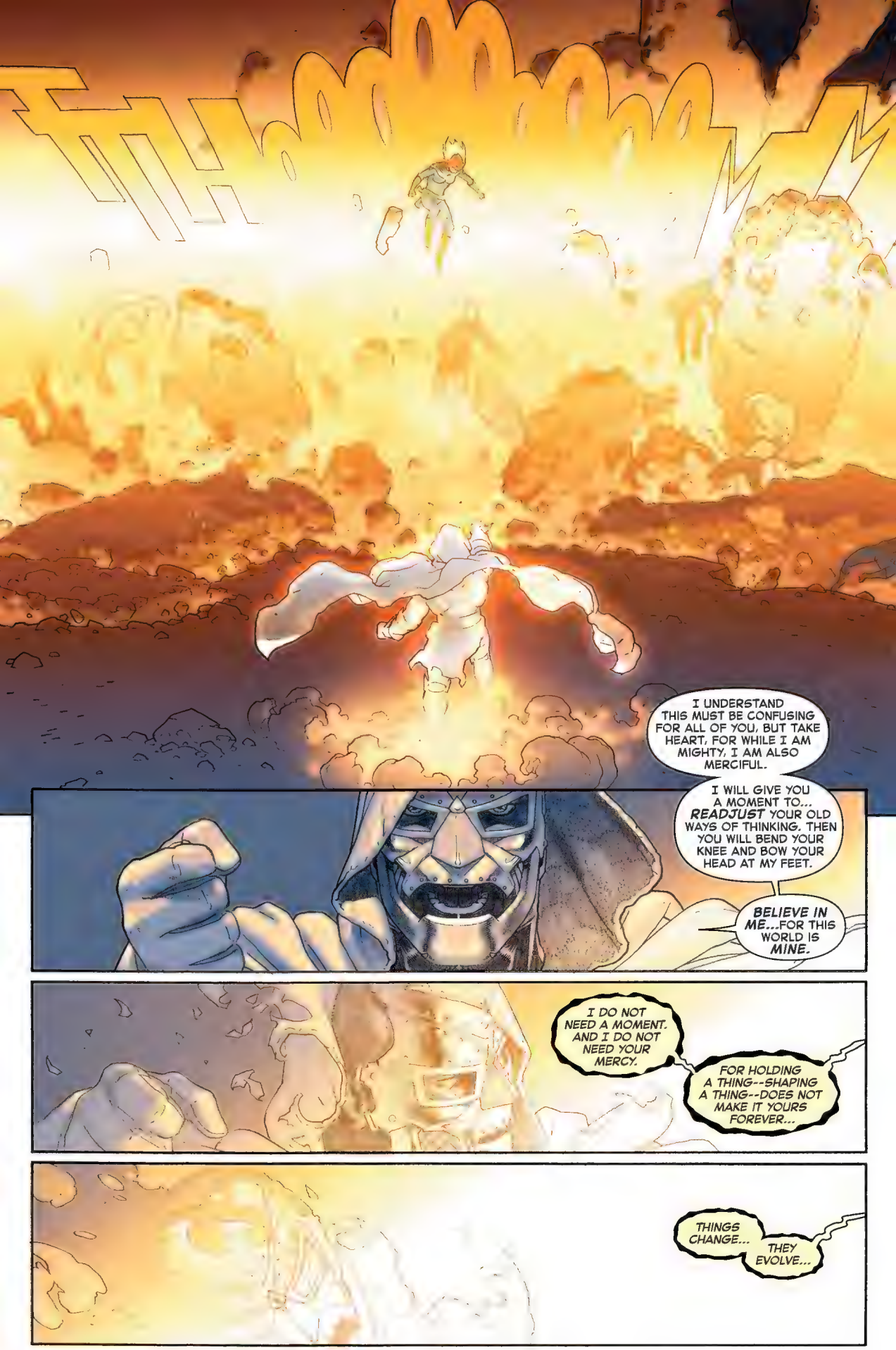
YES. I DID WHAT YOU AND ALL OF YOUR ILK COULD NOT.
I SAVED THE UNSAVABLE IN THE FACE OF *TOTAL ANNIHILATION.*
I AM A MIRACLE WORKER. BUT HERE *YOU* ARE, SO YOU MUST BE AS WELL.

WE BUILT A SHIP. ALL WE SAVED WAS OURSELVES.
I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU DECIDED TO PUT YOURSELF ON A THRONE.
YEAH. WE'RE ALL ABSOLUTELY SHOCKED BY THAT. JUST FLOORED.

A THRONE?
I'VE HAD A THRONE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. A THRONE WAS MY BIRTHRIGHT. I'VE PLACED MYSELF A GOOD BIT HIGHER THAN THAT.

HAVE YOU? I HAVE MY DOUBTS.
IF ONE PLAYS AT BEING A GOD, ONE WOULD NOT SHY AWAY FROM SAYING IT.

I AM GOD.


I UNDERSTAND THIS MUST BE CONFUSING FOR ALL OF YOU, BUT TAKE HEART, FOR WHILE I AM MIGHTY, I AM ALSO MERCIFUL.
I WILL GIVE YOU A MOMENT TO... READJUST YOUR OLD WAYS OF THINKING. THEN YOU WILL BEND YOUR KNEE AND BOW YOUR HEAD AT MY FEET.
BELIEVE IN ME...FOR THIS WORLD IS MINE.
I DO NOT NEED A MOMENT. AND I DO NOT NEED YOUR MERCY.
FOR HOLDING A THING--SHAPING A THING--DOES NOT MAKE IT YOURS FOREVER...
THINGS CHANGE...
THEY EVOLVE...

THE FUTURE CANNOT BE DENIED.
HRRCHHHHHH
IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER MAN. FOR A TIME, PLAYING AT SOMETHING GREATER THAN WHAT YOU ARE...
AND I?
I AM MUTANT--MORE THAN MAN...
HRAARGH
I AM THE FUTURE HERE IN THE PRESENT.
AND ALL WORLDS--EVEN YOURS--BELONG TO US...
THIS PLANET IS OURS...
THIS PLANET IS MIN--

HURK!
MY EYES HAVE SEEN THINGS OVER THE YEARS, T'CHALLA...
I HAVE HIDDEN MANY OF THEM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STEPHEN?
THE FUTURE?
THAT FUTURE YOU SPEAK OF IS A DREAM, BOY.
AND THE DREAM...
REMEMBER THIS.

CRACK
...THE DREAM IS OVER.
THUMP
WHERE DID YOU SEND THEM, STEPHEN?
I SCATTERED THEM TO THE WIND.
WHY?
BECAUSE WE BOTH KNOW WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
THEY WOULD HAVE REFUSED TO BOW BEFORE YOU, AND THEN YOU WOULD HAVE FELT COMPELLED TO ELIMINATE SUCH BEHAVIOR. WITH PREJUDICE.
I COULDN'T ALLOW THAT.

YOU THINK THAT'S AN INDULGENCE, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO TRY TO DO.
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES. IT'S THEIR NATURE.
IT'S *HIS.*
MAYBE IT'S MINE AS WELL.
THOSE ARE PEOPLE WE REALLY KNOW, *FROM THE OLD WORLD*, AND I HAVE LIVED A LIFETIME WITH SOME OF THEM. WE DID GREAT THINGS TOGETHER.
AND HAVE YOU AND *I* NOT DONE GREAT THINGS TOGETHER, OLD FRIEND?
OF COURSE WE HAVE...
...BUT I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
CALL THEM BACK.
NO.
...
YOU WILL NOT TEST ME, STEPHEN.
I DIDN'T EVEN TELL HIM WHAT YOU'VE DONE, AND I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO BE HARD AT WORK SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF YOU.
HOW MUCH HARDER DO YOU THINK REED RICHARDS IS GOING TO TRY WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT YOU STOLE HIS ENTIRE *LIFE?* LOOK AT YOU...
EVEN WITH ALL THIS POWER, YOU'RE STILL AFRAID OF HIM.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT, OLD FRIEND?
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE.

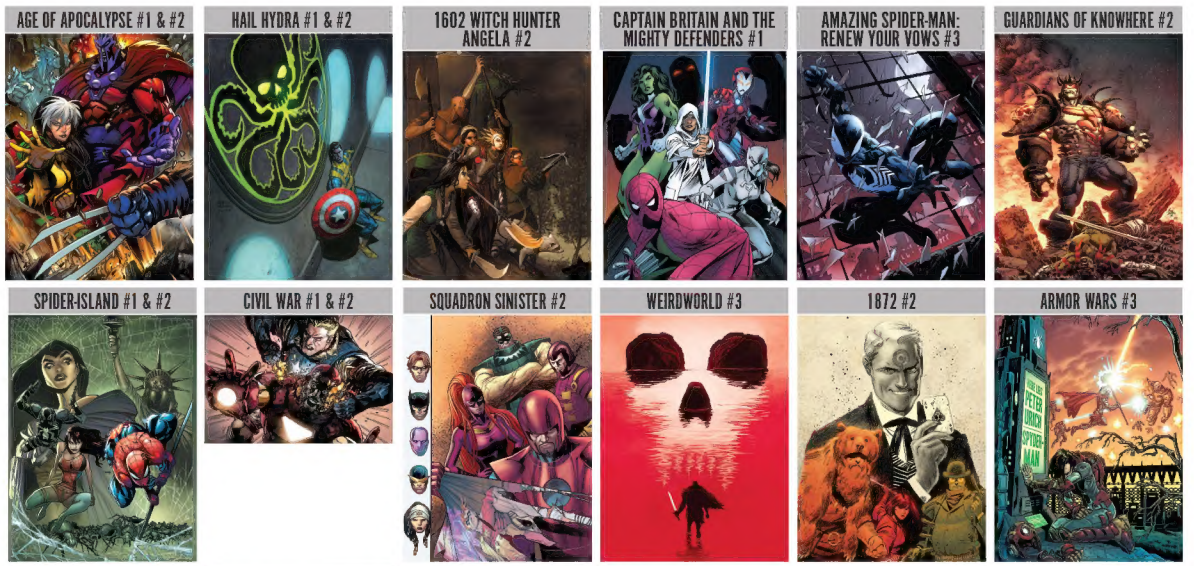
ZZZNNNKT
TO BE CONTINUED...

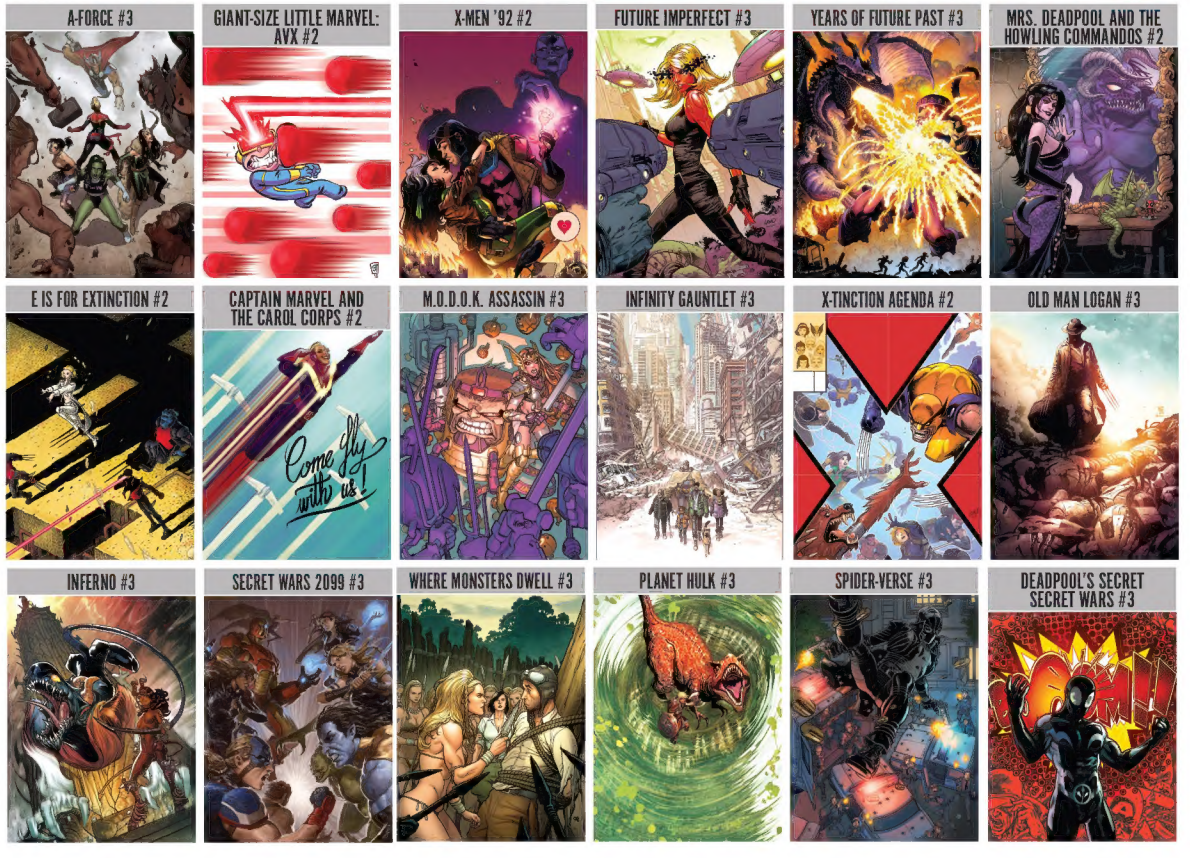
SECRET WARS

LAST DAYS

BATTLEWORLD

WARZONES!


AGE OF APOCALYPSE #1 & #2
HAIL HYDRA #1 & #2
1602 WITCH HUNTER ANGELA #2
CAPTAIN BRITAIN AND THE MIGHTY DEFENDERS #1
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: RENEW YOUR VOWS #3
GUARDIANS OF KNOWHERE #2
SPIDER-ISLAND #1 & #2
CIVIL WAR #1 & #2
SQUADRON SINISTER #2
WEIRDWORLD #3
1872 #2
ARMOR WARS #3



NEXT...